

MAR 24 1967

DATE: March 23, 1967

TO : Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics

FROM : Spyros Andreopoulos
Medical Center News Bureau

SUBJECT:



Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Some months ago, SCIENCE carried an article by Minneapolis Tribune science writer Vic Cohn on the need for a more meaningful reporting of scientific developments to the public. The questions Vic raised were "are we really telling the people about science?" and "how well are we doing as science writers?" His answer was, obviously not well enough, in the face of the world's lagging response to nuclear dangers, to overpopulation and to change itself.

I am mentioning this because I think your excellent column in The Washington Post is the only serious newspaper effort I know, delving deeper into the effects of science on people and public policy. We so-called science writers, except for an exceptional few, fail to pay enough attention to the lessons and uses of science and technology --the fact that they are not separate entities, but they affect every field, and reliable, meaningful facts about them must be woven into many kinds of writing so they may become part of public thinking.

For these reasons your column has been very stimulating and informative. In a way, it makes me feel that I am missing the big story of our time through daily preoccupation with trivia.